

OCT 03 2001

MR. GUTTRY: My name is Glen Guttry, G-u-t-t-r-y.

5 I am here on behalf of Governor Kenny Guinn. He has asked
6 the Mayor of the City of Elko to read into the record his
7 testimony concerning the Yucca Mountain Project. The Mayor
8 of the City of Elko was unavailable and asked me, being the
9 vice-mayor, if I would do that. That's why I am here
10 tonight.

11 This is the testimony of Kenny C. Guinn, U.S.
12 Department of Energy, public hearing, September 5, 2001.

13 Good afternoon. On behalf of the citizens of
14 the State of Nevada I would like to welcome you here this
15 afternoon, and hope my remarks and remarks of the many
16 concerned Nevadans who will speak later will be taken in
17 the spirit in which they are intended. That is, honest,
18 constructive and impassioned public input on an issue that
19 is paramount to the health and safety of every Nevadan and
20 every American whose home, school, or place of business
21 sits along the proposed paths that the deadliest substance
22 on earth, if the DOE has its way, will take to Nevada.

23 This debate is not new. As many of you know,
24 Nevada's fight to keep nuclear waste from coming to Yucca
25 Mountain has raged on for nearly 20 years. Unlike many of
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1 the policy battles that grip Washington, however, this
2 fight transcends party affiliation, socio-economic classes,
3 race or gender and galvanizes Nevadans from every corner of
4 this state in opposition.

5 Though the debate is not new, I must say that
6 recent developments, those that bring us here tonight, are
7 quite alarming and raise a number of new concerns.

8 The very purpose of this meeting is in
9 question. You have invited me and many good people here
10 tonight so you and the Department of Energy can gather
11 public comment on scientific evidence that is not complete
12 and has not been made public. Public comments in the
13 absence of this all-important evidence is premature and
14 grossly irresponsible.

15 Ladies and Gentlemen, this is not the way we
16 do business in Nevada, and certainly this is not the way
17 the Government should handle its affairs.

18 I am very disappointed that you have chosen to
19 disregard essentially all of my office's recommendations
20 and decided to hold these meetings prematurely and over our
21 reasonable objections.

22 We in Nevada will not stand for it.

23 Therefore, I would strongly advise and today

24 formally request you schedule additional hearings over the
25 course of coming months across Nevada to give our citizens
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1 and their elected leaders a fair and appropriate chance to
2 respond to your completed findings.

3 And I assure you that my outrage at the lack
4 of protocol that has permeated this process will be
5 detailed in letters directly to Secretary Abraham and the
6 President.

7 It is my sincerest hope that you recognize
8 this error and your duty to correct it.

9 I don't have to remind anyone here today that
10 it was not long ago that Nevadans and all Americans were
11 assured that nuclear testing was safe. It was less than 50
12 years ago.

13 Since that time the DOE admitted that the
14 aftermath of testing of the hydrogen bomb at Yucca Flats
15 caused innocent Americans to die and that cancer benefits
16 should be paid to the families of the dozens of men and
17 women who were contaminated by fallout from nuclear
18 testing.

19 I am not talking about casualties of war in
20 some distant country. I am talking about the small farmers
21 in Utah who tragically suffered from contaminated nuclear
22 air.

23 I am talking about the Nevada workers and
24 their families who took the Government at its word and
25 trudged to and from the test site every day with assurances
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1 that they were not in harm's way.

2 And I am talking about generations of
3 patriotic American families financially wiped out fighting
4 cancer while they awaited some word of admission or
5 assistance from their government.

6 The DOE pathetically only made that admission
7 just a few years ago and it came only after years of denial
8 and government red tape.

9 Just yesterday we learned for the first time
10 that germ warfare testing -- imagine, germ warfare testing
11 -- was conducted at that same test site without any
12 knowledge whatsoever by our own congressional delegation or
13 my office.

14 With a track record like this, it is no wonder
15 the Department of Energy lacks credibility not only in
16 Nevada, but also in our neighboring states.

17 Given the history, I trust you can understand

Glen Guttry

18 why I view this proceeding as morally illegal, if not
19 technically so.

20 It violates everything we believe in as
21 Americans. It duplicates all that was wrong in the past
22 and gives credence to the mistrust and cynicism harbored by
23 so many of our people.

24 Our concerns are clear. This wonderful state
25 has been ignored far too long. We demand fairness and we
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1 demand accountability in this process. We will not sit
2 idly by and let the Department of Energy run roughshod over
3 our citizens with empty promises and bad science.

4 We did it once in good faith as proud and
5 loyal Americans. But sadly, we did not get back what we
6 gave, and so we have learned from the past, and we are not
7 about to repeat it.

8 Thank you.